

**Vermont Environmental Justice Law  
Environmental Justice Advisory Council  
Turnover and Terms**

The following document was created by the EJ Coordinators to document the initial turnover process for the first iteration of the Environmental Justice Advisory Council.

**Current Membership.**

- **The Director of Racial Equity or designee.**
  - Current appointment: Xusana Davis, Executive Director of the Office of Racial Equity
  - Term expiration: N/A
  - Appointing authority: N/A
  
- **One representative of municipal government.**
  - Current appointment: Zoraya Hightower
  - Term expiration: December, 2024
  - Appointing authority: Committee on Committees
  
- **One representative of a social justice organization.**
  - Current appointment: Britaney Watson
  - Term expiration: December, 2026
  - Appointing authority: Committee on Committees
  
- **One representative of mobile home park residents.**
  - Current appointment: *Vacant*
  - Term expiration: December, 2028
  - Appointing authority: Committee on Committees
  
- **One representative of an environmental justice focus population.**
  - Current appointment: Walter Brownridge
  - Term expiration: February, 2025
  - Appointing authority: Speaker of the House
  
- **One representative of an organization working on food security issues.**
  - Current appointment: Mariana Sears
  - Term expiration: February, 2027
  - Appointing authority: Speaker of the House

- **One representative of immigrant communities in Vermont.**
  - Current appointment: Maryam Shabbir Abbasi
  - Term expiration: February, 2029
  - Appointing authority: Speaker of the House
  
- **One representative of a statewide environmental organization.**
  - Current appointment: *Vacant*
  - Term expiration: February, 2027
  - Appointing authority: Speaker of the House
  
- **One representative of a State-recognized Native American Indian tribe.**
  - Current appointment: Rich Holschuh
  - Term expiration: N/A
  - Appointing authority: the Vermont Commission on Native American Affairs
  
- **The Executive Director of the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board or designee.**
  - Current appointment: Trey Martin
  - Term expiration: N/A
  - Appointing authority: N/A
  
- **The Chair of the Natural Resources Conservation Council or designee.**
  - Current appointment: Jennifer Byrne
  - Term expiration: N/A
  - Appointing authority: N/A

### **Statutory Background.**

#### 3 V.S.A. § 6006 (d)(1)

“The Advisory Council shall consist of the following 11 members, with a goal to have more than 50 percent residing in environmental justice focus populations:

- A. the Director of Racial Equity or designee;
- B. the following members appointed by the Committee on Committees:
  - i. one representative of municipal government;
  - ii. one representative of a social justice organization;
  - iii. one representative of mobile home park residents;
- C. the following members appointed by the Speaker of the House:
  - i. one representative who resides in a census block group that is designated as an environmental justice focus population;
  - ii. one representative of an organization working on food security issues;
  - iii. one representative of immigrant communities in Vermont;
  - iv. one representative of a statewide environmental organization;
- D. one representative of a State-recognized Native American Indian tribe, recommended and appointed by the Vermont Commission on Native American Affairs;
- E. the Executive Director of the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board or designee; and
- F. the Chair of the Natural Resources Conservation Council or designee.

#### 3 V.S.A. § 6006 (d)(4)

“After initial appointments, all appointed members of the Advisory Council shall serve six-year terms and serve until a successor is appointed. The initial terms shall be staggered so that one third of the appointed members shall serve a two-year term, another third of the appointed members shall serve a four-year term, and the remaining members shall be appointed to a six-year term.”

#### 3 V.S.A. § 6006 (d)(5)

“Vacancies of the Advisory Council shall be appointed in the same manner as original appointments.”