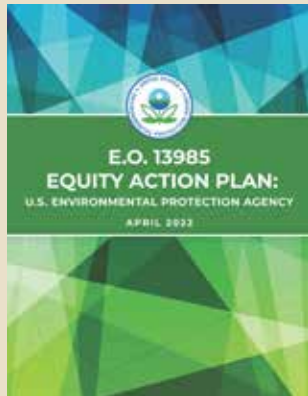


# Progress on President Biden Executive Orders—How Key Departments and Agencies are Building Momentum



**Objective 2.1:** Promote Environmental Justice and Civil Rights at the Federal, Tribal, State, and Local Levels

**Objective 2.2:** Embed Environmental Justice and Civil Rights into EPA's Programs, Policies, and Activities

**Objective 2.3:** Strengthen Civil Rights Enforcement in Communities with Environmental Justice Concerns

**Priority Action #1:** Develop a comprehensive framework for considering cumulative impacts in relevant EPA decisions and operationalize that framework in EPA's programs and activities.

**Priority Action #2:** Build the capacity of underserved communities to provide their experience to EPA and implement community-led projects.

**Priority Action #3:** Develop EPA's internal capacity to engage underserved communities and implement clear and accountable processes to act based on communities' input.

**Priority Action #4:** Strengthen EPA's external civil rights compliance program and ensure that civil rights compliance is an agency-wide responsibility.

**Priority Action #5:** Integrate community science into EPA's research and program implementation.

**Priority Action #6:** Make EPA's procurement and contracting more equitable.

Last year, President Biden signed several executive orders directing the executive branch of the federal government, its departments and offices to address equity and environmental justice (EJ) through a whole-of-government approach. Our winter 2022 *Pacific Islands Fishery News* article, "Lack of diversity is the enemy of success" – Secretary of Commerce, Gina Raimondo," shared Department of Commerce efforts. Here, we look at how two other key federal agencies are improving in this important topic.

The Department of the Interior (DOI) maintains a blog that details the focus areas of its EJ efforts:

- ✦ *Making America's public lands and waters more accessible and inclusive*
- ✦ *Cleaning up legacy pollution*
- ✦ *Fighting the climate crisis*

The DOI, under the leadership of Secretary Deb Haaland, is increasing equitable access to the outdoors for urban communities, communities of color and indigenous communities through the America the Beautiful initiative. The department is also reviewing and replacing derogatory names for national geographic features.

For offshore wind production, DOI is requiring that companies enhance engagement with Tribes, other ocean users and underserved communities. In a January press release, the department showcased new lease terms that would "hold companies accountable for improving their engagement, communication and transparency with these communities." While most of these leases are active on the mainland, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management has several lease areas in the Pacific Islands. These new DOI requirements can provide pathways for our communities to better shape project outcomes.

Under the DOI, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is the lead federal agency for EJ and provides administrative support for the White House Administration's new Environmental Justice Advisory Council. The agency also administers the National Environmental Justice Advisory Council and has an EJ small grants program. EPA partners with the Department of Justice Office of Civil Rights to adjudicate EJ claims and recently released an Equity Action Plan that carries forward the agency's intent to "break through barriers and advance equity and justice across our efforts to ensure clean water, air, and land for all communities." 🐟

Resources:

[www.doi.gov/blog](http://www.doi.gov/blog)

[www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2022-04/epa\\_equityactionplan\\_april2022\\_508.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2022-04/epa_equityactionplan_april2022_508.pdf)