

Unlearning Racist Behaviors in the Climate Activist World

Resource Book

-CSB / SJU Climate Justice Club-



Art done by Ricardo Levins Morales

In a time of many crises, the CSBSJU Climate Justice Club desired to release a Factbook explaining the overlap between climate justice and racial justice. Environmental racism is the disproportionate impact of environmental hazards on people of color. The Environmental Justice movement works to respond to Environmental racism. Environmental racism also refers to the institutional rules, regulations, policies, or government and/or corporate decisions that deliberately target certain communities for locally undesirable land uses and lax enforcement of zoning and environmental laws. This results in communities being disproportionately exposed to toxic and hazardous waste based upon race. ([GreenAction](#))

Climate Justice Club invites you to read through these sources in an effort to educate yourself about the disproportionate impact by polluting industries on communities of color! Share with us the information that stuck out most to you, and promote it on social media! There is no climate justice without racial justice.

Here you will find:

[Helpful Articles](#) (both Minnesota and non-place specific)

[Mapping Tools](#)

[Organizations](#)

[Informational Videos](#)

[Documentaries](#)

[Podcasts / Webinars](#)

Helpful Articles:

Specific to Minnesota:

1. [Huge Gap in Pollution Exposure by Race Surprises U of M Researchers](#)
 - a. Hirsi breaks down a study that found people of color are exposed to 38% more outdoor nitrogen dioxide, which comes from vehicle exhaust and power plants than white people.
 - b. Findings show that race has a higher weight than income for people exposed to Outdoor Nitrogen Dioxide levels
2. [Confronting Electric Racism](#)
 - a. Some helpful resources for educating Minnesotans about living sustainably and building healthy communities
3. [The Environmental Justice Wake-Up Call](#)
 - a. Explains how the words “I can’t breathe” relate to how communities of color carry a disproportionate burden of the country’s air pollution and other environmental hazards
4. [Climate Change is Racial Injustice: Students Speak Their Truth in Winning Podcast](#)
 - a. High School climate episode about environmental racism that won the grand prize in the MPR Student Podcast Challenge

Non-place specific articles

5. [Who Different Realities: Why America needs Environmental Justice](#)
 - a. Berardelli opens by discussing the intersections in which inequality harms minority communities, from the death of George Floyd to the disproportionate impacts of COVID-19 to unhealthy communities that do not ensure people of color and low-income residents have sound and fair environmental health and protection policies and practices.
 - b. Environmental issues disproportionately impact minority communities
6. [Race, Pollution and the Coronavirus](#)
 - a. There is an overlap between African Americans becoming infected and dying from COVID-19 disproportionately and counties with higher levels of pollution, which are seeing greater numbers of coronavirus deaths
7. [Black Environmentalists Talk About Climate and Anti-Racism](#)
 - a. How to live sustainably while also tackling inequality
8. [Trump’s EPA Concludes Environmental Racism is Real](#)
 - a. A new report from the EPA show that people of color are more likely to live near polluters and breathe polluted air, even as the agency seeks to roll back regulations on pollution

9. [They chose us because we were rural and poor: When Environmental racism and Climate Change Collide](#)
 - a. Explains how the Environmental movement has a long history in America's south - yet people of color and impoverished communities continue to face dangerous pollution
10. [Read Up on the Links Between Racism and the Environment](#)
 - a. Renewed scrutiny on the links between racism and environmental degradation in the United States

Mapping Tools:

1. [Interactive map of Environmental Justice in the Twin Cities](#) by CEED (Center for Earth, Energy, and Democracy)
 - a. Use the EJ Atlas Storyboard map to learn how each marginalized layer shows a different side of the Twin Cities, such as where toxins have been found from old or ongoing polluters, what assets like parks and grocers are in each neighborhood, and demographic information
2. [MNPCA](#)- Interactive Map showing MPCA Air Pollution Scores along with other tabs including People of Color, Languages, and Tribal Areas

Organizations:

1. [Climate Generation](#)
 - a. providing action steps to talk about whiteness within the Environmental Movement
2. [NAACP](#):
 - a. Environmental and Climate Justice - definitions and other resources linked at the bottom with current events and how it relates to environmental justice
3. [GreenAction](#)
 - a. Health and Environmental Justice's page on Environmental and Climate Justice: Includes the principles for environmental justice and the difference between equity and justice
4. [Alliance for Metropolitan Stability](#)
 - a. Change policy and practice to create shared prosperity and remove systemic barriers to justice by developing campaigns to ensure low-wealth people and people have color have a strong role in regional decision making
 - b. Support Twin Cities-based and culturally specific organizations
5. [Land Stewardship Project](#)

- a. Working to level the playing fields for BIPOC. Private, nonprofit to foster an ethic of stewardship for farmland, promote sustainable agriculture and to develop healthy communities
6. [North American Water Office](#)
 - a. Focus on electric utility wastes and the disproportionate adverse healthy and economic impacts of electric utility wastes on Indigenous Peoples, People of Color, and those who live at subsistence levels
 - b. The mission is to phase renewable energy and energy efficiency to empower those who are disproportionately affected to utilize mitigation strategies
7. [Women's Environmental Institute](#)
 - a. Environmental research, renewal and retreat center designed to create and share knowledge about environmental issues and policies relevant to women, children, and identified communities affected by environmental injustice: promote agricultural justice, organic and sustainable agriculture and ecological awareness
8. [Center for Earth, Energy, and Democracy](#)
 - a. Mission to ensure that communities and policymakers have the tools and information they need to create just, sustainable energy, and environmental policy
 - b. Overburdened communities have a right to know what pollution sources exist in their community
 - c. [Minneapolis Green Zones](#): Green Zones prioritize community voices to define and plan their own future to transform neighborhoods from hot spots of pollution into healthy places to live, work and play.
9. [Environmental Justice Advocates of Minnesota](#)
 - a. Works in collaboration with communities to revitalize traditions for caring for the land and work together to create healthy environments and just, sustainable economies

Informational Videos:

1. [TED Talk](#) by LaToya Rudy Frazier on inequality and environmental toxicity in industrial America, the intersection of the steel industry, the environment, and health care
2. [How Environmental Racism shapes the U.S.](#) -- pbs.org

Documentaries:

1. [Darwin's Nightmare](#)
 - a. Outsiders bring in a new type of non-native fish to Lake Victoria and wipe out the local economy totally
2. [Life and Debt](#)

- a. Examination of the economic and social situation in Jamaica, and specifically how the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank's structural adjustment policies have impacted the island
3. [When the Levees Broke](#)
 - a. Depicts the devastation of New Orleans, Louisiana following the failure of the levees during Hurricane Katrina
4. [Dark Waters](#)
 - a. Case of Robert Bilott's case against the chemical manufacturing corporation DuPont after they contaminated a town with unregulated chemicals

Podcasts / Webinars:

1. [Dismantle White Supremacy](#)
 - a. Examine 350.org's webinar to hear from the US team, partners and frontline organizers about ways to show up in this moment and for Black Lives
2. [Climate Cast: For Black Climate Experts, the fight is against two inhospitable climates](#)
 - a. Sam Grant, executive director of MN350, explains how the mainstream environmental movement needs to recognize that people are part of nature.
3. [Making the Climate Movement Anti-Racist w/ Dr. Robert Bullard](#)
 - a. Founder of term "Environmental Racism" explaining why the Black Lives Matter demonstrations that have taken place in June 2020 are unique, and other racial justice milestones. Also gives a take on President Biden and what he can do to turn hopeful words into concrete action.

