The Fifth University of Maryland

SYMPOSIUM ON ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE & HEALTH DISPARITIES
University of Maryland, College Park – Adele H. Stamp Student Union
May 11, 2019

8:00 - 12:30 PM.......................................................... Registration & Exhibitor Setup

8:30 - 8:45 AM..................................................Welcome Address from Sacoby Wilson, Associate Professor, UMD School of Public Health and Director of the CEEJH lab

8:45 - 10:00 AM..................................................PLENARY PANEL: EJ Q&A with Local Legislators and Officials
Location: Grand Ballroom – Room 1206

10:10 - 11:25 AM.................................................. Concurrent Sessions I
1st & 2nd Floor Meeting Rooms

11:35 - 12:50 PM.................................................. Concurrent Sessions II
1st & 2nd Floor Meeting Rooms

12:45 - 1:45 PM.................................................. Networking Lunch
1st & 2nd Floor Meeting Rooms

1:50 - 3:20 PM.................................................. Concurrent Session III
1st & 2nd Floor Meeting Rooms

3:30 - 5:00 PM.................................................. Concurrent Session IV
1st & 2nd Floor Meeting Rooms

5:00 - 6:00 PM.................................................. Evening Reception
Grand Ballroom – Room 1206

6:00 - 7:00 PM.................................................. 8th Annual CEEJH Keynote Address:
Mustafa Santiago Ali, National Wildlife Federation
Grand Ballroom – Room 1206

Mustafa Santiago Ali, the National Wildlife Federation’s vice president for environmental justice, climate and community revitalization, is a nationally-recognized leader on environmental justice and climate policy. His work has been grounded in the 17 principles of the environmental justice movement and is committed to transforming communities of color from “surviving to thriving.”
REGISTRATION
8:00AM - 12:30PM | GRAND BALLROOM - ROOM 1206

Registration tables will open at 8:00 AM and remain staffed for the duration of the symposium. After registering, please help yourself to light breakfast fare and coffee in the Grand Ballroom.

WELCOME ADDRESS
8:30AM - 8:45PM | GRAND BALLROOM - ROOM 1206

Sacoby Wilson is an Associate Professor with the Maryland Institute for Applied Environmental Health and the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics at the University of Maryland School of Public Health and Director of the Community Engagement, Environmental Justice & Health (CEEJH) Lab.Sacoby Wilson will provide comments on previous symposia, a brief overview of CEEJH’s current projects and an outline for the day’s sessions.

PLENARY: EJ Q&A WITH LOCAL LEGISLATORS AND OFFICIALS
8:45AM - 10:00PM | GRAND BALLROOM - ROOM 1206

In the six months leading up to this year’s symposium, we invited dozens of policymakers, agency officials and regulatory organization members at local, county, state and regional levels to participate in a report-back session on their organization’s environmental justice efforts.

PANELISTS FROM THE PRINCE GEORGE’S COUNTY COUNCIL:

- The Honorable Deni L. Taveras of District 2
- The Honorable Jolene Ivey of District 5
- Legislative & Community Liaison Christopher Stevenson
  (on behalf of the Honorable Calvin Hawkins, Council At-Large Member)

PANELISTS FROM MARYLAND AND VIRGINIA STATE AGENCIES:

- Assistant Secretary Carol A. Gilbert, Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development, Division of Neighborhood Revitalization
- Local Assistance and Training Manager Joe Griffiths, Maryland Department of Planning

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Session A1

CLIMATE JUSTICE AND EQUITY: Beyond the Green New Deal?

LOCATION: Benjamin Banneker A - Room 2212

MODERATOR: Sacoby Wilson, Associate Professor and CEEJH Lab Director, UMD School of Public Health

PANELISTS:

- Robert Musil, President & CEO, Rachel Carson Council
- Alaura Carter, Grassroots Coordinator, Climate Reality Project
- Tamara Toles O’Laughlin, North America Director, 350.org

The negative impacts of climate change (e.g., increases in extreme weather, flooding, sea level rise, heatwaves, resource scarcity) will befall frontline environmental justice communities. Due to this “Climate Gap,” there has been a push for more equity in climate mitigation and adaptation. The Green New Deal (GND), a congressional platform for tackling climate change, calls for a dramatic reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by shifting the nation away from reliance on fossil fuels to renewable energy. It is not clear if it will address the plight of frontline environmental justice communities. In this session, panelists from the non-profit sector will provide environmental justice context to the GND and assess its true potential of achieving climate justice and equity. Does it go far enough or is it another example of trickle-down environmental policy? The panelists will debate these issues.

Session A2

NATURAL GAS INFRASTRUCTURE AND COMMUNITY HEALTH: A Review of Recent Victories and Struggles

LOCATION: Benjamin Banneker B - Room 2212

MODERATOR: Ruth Alice White, Co-Chair, MD Sierra Club Beyond Gas Committee

PANELISTS:

- Jennifer King, Owner, Eversweet Apiaries and Advocate, Boyd Carter Memorial Cemetery
- Leonard “Len” Zuza, Community Advocate and Resident, Solomons, Maryland
- Omega Wilson, President, West End Revitalization Association, Mebane, NC

The fight against natural gas infrastructure (NGI) is happening throughout the Mid-Atlantic. In Baltimore, organizers are battling the conversion of a retired coal-fired power plant to fracked gas. Just over the western Maryland border in Jefferson County, West Virginia, community members are rallying against the Rockwool Gas Pipeline an impending extension to the existing 4.85 mile Mountaineer Gas Pipeline. Not only will the pipeline present negative health impacts for residents, it also stands to erase the Boyd-Carter Cemetery, a historic African-American burial ground. More than 130 miles away in southern Maryland, Lusby residents are confronting Dominion Energy’s Cove Point Liquefied Natural Gas Export Facility. Panelists will discuss the specific issues and challenges related to these fights, impacts on public health, victories and the importance of activism and advocacy.

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CONCURRENT SESSIONS I, continued
10:10 am - 11:25 am | 1st & 2nd floor meeting rooms

Session A3

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AND HEALTH ISSUES IN VIRGINIA
LOCATION: Margaret Brent A – Room 2112

MODERATOR: Steven Fischbach, Litigation Director, Virginia Poverty Law Center

PANELISTS:
• John & Ruby Laury, Community Activists and Residents of Union Hill, VA
• Charles Caffee, Resident of Lambert’s Point, Norfolk, VA
• Mary Finley-Brook, Associate Professor of Geography and the Environment, University of Richmond

This session will highlight ongoing environmental justice campaigns in Virginia: one urban, one rural and one statewide. The urban campaign involves a multi-year fight to prevent the spread of coal dust from the Lambert’s Point Coal Terminal, the largest coal export facility in the Northern Hemisphere, into the adjoining historically Black Norfolk neighborhood of the same name. The rural campaign highlights the ongoing battle to prevent the construction of a compressor station for the Atlantic Coast Pipeline in the historically Black community of Union Hill, Buckingham County. The statewide campaign relates to the Union Hill struggle, as the Governor’s Advisory committee on Environmental Justice took a strong stance against the Union Hill compressor station and was subsequently disbanded. A member of the disbanded committee will discuss efforts to insure that the new Committee the Governor is creating remains an independent voice for environmental justice concerns in the Commonwealth.

Session A4

LESSONS LEARNED: The Port Town’s Struggle Against a Concrete Batching Plant
LOCATION: Margaret Brent B – Room 2112

MODERATOR: Rebecca Rehr, MPH '12, Senior Program Manager, Climate for Health at ecoAmerica

PANELISTS:
• Nancy J. Meyer, CEO, Community Forklift
• Chris Melendez, Vice Chair, Port Towns Community Development Corporation
• Paul Howe, Board Member, Port Towns Community Development Corporation

On March 25, 2019, the Prince George’s County Council denied the SE-4792 special exception application to shoehorn a new concrete batching plant onto the densely developed site of an existing concrete block manufacturing plant in downtown Bladensburg, Md. and only blocks away from area schools. The denial came after two years of community opposition by residents, nonprofit leaders, business, and elected officials. Members of Port Towns Environmental Action will present an update on the case and the strategies that made the denial of the concrete batching plant application a reality. Panelists will provide insight into how other communities fighting for environmental justice can also win against locally unwanted land uses (LULUs).

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Session A5

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AND SPECIAL EXCEPTIONS IN ZONING IN MARYLAND

LOCATION: Pyon Su - Room 2108

MODERATOR: Stephanie Malchine and Dan Baker, JD Candidates, University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law

PANELISTS:
- Frederick Tutman, Patuxent Riverkeeper
- David Blitzer, Litigation Attorney, HoonBlitzer Associates, LLC
- Matthew Peters, Attorney

Inequities in zoning can drive environmental injustice. A special exception may be granted through a formal process by which an applicant can obtain county permission to engage in activities that are typically not allowed under zoning restrictions in an area. This session will focus on the general principles of special exceptions and the specific process within Prince George's County. We plan to focus on how special exceptions have been used to create environmental injustice and can be used as advocacy tools by impacted communities. We will examine two case studies where communities have effectively contested special exceptions. We will be joined by panelists with firsthand knowledge of these case studies: Fred Tutman, Patuxent Riverkeeper; Matt Peters, Esq., former staff attorney with the Environmental Law Clinic; and David Blitzer, Esq., with HoonBlitzer, LLC.

Session A6

STOPPING INDUSTRIAL POLLUTERS WITH LOCAL ORDINANCES: What We Can Learn From the Baltimore Clean Air Act

LOCATION: Thurgood Marshall - Room 2113

PANELISTS:
- Mike Ewall, Executive Director, Energy Justice Network
- Dante Swinton, Environmental Justice Researcher & Organizer, Energy Justice Network

Earlier this year, the Baltimore City Council unanimously passed the Baltimore Clean Air Act, which is expected to force the closure of two major waste incinerators in the city. One is the larger of two trash incinerators in Maryland and the city’s largest air polluter. The other is the nation’s largest medical waste incinerator, taking in waste from 20 states. Learn what the Energy Justice Network did to get this passed, and how you can bring this tactic to your own county to prevent or close down industrial polluters. This workshop will also discuss the next steps Energy Justice is pursuing for a just transition to clean energy and zero waste jobs for the City of Baltimore.
Session A7

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE IS LOCAL: The New Zoning Ordinance in Prince George's County

LOCATION: Nanticoke – Room 1238

PANLISTS:
- **Brittney Drakeford**, Senior Planner, Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission
- **Bryan Barnett-Woods**, Transportation Planner, Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission

In 2018, the Prince George's County Council adopted a new zoning ordinance for the county. Zoning is a tool that is used to regulate where development can occur, how development occurs and what type of development can occur in a community. Unfortunately, zoning can lead to the concentration of locally unwanted land uses in low-wealth communities and marginalized communities of color and contribute to health disparities. This presentation will explore the purpose and history of zoning in Prince George's County then identify significant changes in the new ordinance that address the environmental and health impacts of adverse land uses. The presentation will conclude with question and answers from the audience about the new regulations.

Session B1

THE USE OF SETTLEMENTS TO ADDRESS ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE CONCERNS IN OVERBURDENED COMMUNITIES

LOCATION: Benjamin Banneker A – Room 2212

M 户EDERATOR: Leslie Fields, Director, Environmental Justice and Community Partnerships, Sierra Club

PANLISTS:
- **Louie Miller**, Director, Sierra Club Mississippi
- **Fred Tutman**, Patuxent Riverkeeper
- **Ramon Palencia-Calvo**, Chispa-MD, Maryland League of Conservation Voters (LCV)

Communities have been fighting to stop industrial hazards and unwanted land uses from refineries, landfills and power plants. There have been significant victories in the past few years of the environmental justice movement. In addition to the victories, settlements to benefit communities have been crafted to bring clean energy and a cleaner environment to communities with environmental justice and health issues. In this session, attendees will learn about great victories over power plants in Mississippi and Maryland where communities beat major corporations and received settlements. Additionally, attendees will learn how the Volkswagen settlement can be leveraged to benefit overburdened communities with traffic-related air pollution.
Session B2

SCIENCE, COMMUNITY ORGANIZING, AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE: Lessons From the Field

LOCATION: Benjamin Banneker B- Room 2212

MODERATOR: Jennifer Kunze, Maryland State Organizer, Clean Water Action

PANELISTS:
- Leah Kelly, Senior Attorney, Environmental Integrity Project
- Nabeehah Azeez, Baltimore Peoples Climate Movement
- Faith Ezell, Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health
- Keisha Allen, Westport Neighborhood Association

In Baltimore City, several campaigns focused on public safety and health, environmental contamination and urban infrastructure have brought together legal experts, organizers, scientists, artists and community leaders to work together to find solutions to environmental injustice. Hear from people involved in the passage of the Crude Oil Terminal Prohibition last year; the ongoing campaign to reduce the frequency and severity of sewage contamination in residential homes, and the growth of the Baltimore Peoples Climate Movement as an equity-focused, cross-sector coalition about their work in Baltimore and opportunities to collaborate on environmental justice programs. Panelists will share lessons learned and best practices in translating science to action.

Session B3

CAFOs I: “Right to Harm” on Maryland’s Eastern Shore and in North Carolina

LOCATION: Margaret Brent A - Room 2112

MODERATOR: Maria Payan, Executive Director, Peach Bottom Concerned Citizens Group

PANELISTS:
- Carole Morison, Community Activist, Delmarva Poultry Justice Alliance
- Gina Burton, Community Advocate, Delaware
- Naeeema Muhammad, Co-Director, North Carolina Environmental Justice Network
- Elsie Herring, Community Advocate, Duplin County, NC

In the poorest communities across rural America, residents are being stripped of their basic human rights to clean air and water by industrial animal agriculture including factory chicken and hog farming. These facilities known as concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs) are sources of nitrates and other chemicals that can contaminate rivers and streams causing eutrophication and fish kills. Additionally, these factory farms emit toxic pollutants including particulate matter, hydrogen sulfide, ammonia and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and microbes like E. coli and Salmonella that can impact human health. In this session, we will show a preview of “Right to Harm,” a documentary on the negative impacts of factory farming and how communities are fighting back. Panelists will share their experiences with factory farming, detail its impact on public health and describe their fight for environmental justice.
CONCURRENT SESSIONS II, continued
11:35 AM - 12:50 PM | 1st & 2nd Floor Meeting Rooms

Session B4

TRUMP’S ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES: The Impact of Executive Branch Rollbacks on Communities with Environmental Justice Issues

LOCATION: Margaret Brent B - Room 2112

MODERATOR: Rebecca Rehr, Senior Program Manager, Climate for Health, ecoAmerica

PANELISTS:
- Gretchen Goldman, Research Director, Center for Science and Democracy, Union of Concerned Scientists
- David Baron, Managing Attorney, Earthjustice-Washington D.C.

Over the past three years, the current administration has prioritized rolling back years of progress that we have made as a country in improving environmental quality through environmental rules, regulations, and other initiatives. In the area of climate change, the administration pulled out of the Paris Agreement, shelved the Clean Power Plan and overturned rules that would help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and toxic co-pollutants. Additionally, the administration has delayed the implementation of rules that could benefit communities that host industrial hazards (e.g., the chemical risk management rule). This panel will discuss the administration’s efforts to scale back federal environmental rules, its attempts to curb reliance on established science and the impacts of these actions on human health particularly in communities impacted by environmental injustice and related health inequities.

Session B5

COMMUNITY-UNIVERSITY-LEGAL MODEL FOR ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE: Insights from Uniontown, Alabama

LOCATION: Pyon Su - Room 2108

MODERATOR: Marianne Engelman-Lado, Yale University School of Public Health, School of Forestry & Environmental Studies

PANELISTS:
- Esther Calhoun, President, Black Belt Citizens for Health and Justice, Uniontown, AL
- Alex Jones, Uniontown, Alabama Community Activist
- Sacoby Wilson, Associate Professor and CEEJH Director, UMD School of Public Health

Communities fighting for environmental justice can benefit from partnerships with universities to build the scientific record of pollution, provide legal assistance and develop other forms of strategic alliances. In turn, universities throughout the country are developing opportunities for researchers and students to engage in community-based activities with the goal of benefiting both community and university partners. What have we learned from past experiences? What are the opportunities and challenges for community-university-legal partnerships? Panelists in an emerging community-university-legal partnership in Uniontown, Alabama, will discuss how we can overcome past negative experiences with “helicopter” research, predatory lawyers and inaction and develop best practices for addressing social and environmental injustice.
Session B6

RACIAL EQUITY, EQUITABLE DEVELOPMENT, AND ECODISTRICTS

LOCATION: Thurgood Marshall – Room 2113

MODERATOR: Steve Brigham, Principal, Public Engagement Associates

PANELISTS:
- Nancy J. Meyer, CEO, Community Forklift
- Donzell Robinson, Chief Operating Officer, Justice & Sustainability Associates

This session will focus on a framework for more equitable development in Prince George’s County, drawn from a recent report, “Prince George’s Rising: Strategies for Equitable Prosperity and Development.” Central to equitable development is engaging the community as a genuine partner throughout development processes—whether for housing, transit-oriented development, redeveloping vacant or abandoned properties, or building more sustainable and resilient neighborhoods. Additionally, the session will highlight a case study of the Port Towns communities in central Prince George’s that are using an EcoDistricts approach for more equitable and sustainable development at the neighborhood level.

Session B7

WHAT CAN THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION DO TO SUPPORT ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AND COMMUNITY HEALTH?

LOCATION: Nanticoke – Room 1238

MODERATOR: Tamara Toles O’Laughlin, North American Director, 350.org

PANELISTS:
- Len Zuza, Community Advocate and Resident, Solomons, Maryland
- Delegate Robbyn Lewis, Representative of the 46th Legislative District in the MD House of Delegates

As a key regulatory body of public utilities, the Maryland Public Service Commission sets tariffs for natural gas operations and electricity distribution throughout the state. The Commission also has the power to approve or reject proposals for construction/expansion of power plants (often powered by burning of fossil fuels). This critical role in the siting of these facilities has major implications for residents in nearby communities—typically characterized by low wealth and high proportion of people of color. Decision-making by the commission must be informed by environmental justice principles to mitigate impact on these populations. Panelists will discuss the Public Service Commission’s roles and responsibilities, ways in which community members can engage the Commission, as well as how community members can collect their own data to support advocacy efforts.

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NETWORKING LUNCH & PRESS BRIEFING
12:50PM - 1:50PM

LOCATION: Grand Ballroom (1206)

• Join Community activists including Kamita Gray, President of the Brandywine/TB Southern Region Neighborhood Coalition and Sacoby Wilson as they highlight environmental justice issues in the DMV in Hornbake Plaza, just outside the Stamp Student Union. Grab your boxed lunch and join in!
• Visit the Exhibitor’s Hall to learn about groups working on environmental health and justice issues, youth education, public health, and STEM
• Take this opportunity to view students’ research posters on environmental justice and health disparities

CONCURRENT SESSIONS III
1:50PM - 3:20PM | 1st & 2nd floor meeting rooms

Session C1

DEVELOPMENT OF AN ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLAINT TO INPOWER RESIDENTS AND ADDRESS ENVIRONMENTAL INJUSTICE: A Story of Three Communities

LOCATION: Benjamin Banneker A - Room 2212

WORKSHOP LEADS:

• Fred Tutman, Patuxent Riverkeeper
• Naeema Muhammad, Co-Director, North Carolina Environmental Justice Network
• Marianne Engleman-Lado, Yale University School of Public Health, School of Forestry & Environmental Studies
• Omega Wilson, President, West End Revitalization Association

Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act prohibits state agencies receiving federal funding from allowing hazardous and/or polluting industries to disproportionately impact communities of color. Communities believing a Title VI violation has occurred have the opportunity to file an administrative complaint citing discrimination on grounds of race, ethnicity or any other protected class. In this session, panelists will illustrate the process for filing an administrative complaint and provide insights from three case studies of administrative complaint filed on behalf of communities of color: 1) differential siting of power plants in Maryland, 2) differential siting of industrial hog farms in North Carolina and 3) the proposed construction of a highway through a historic community lacking basic amenities. Panelists will discuss the process of developing a complaint, review of the complaint, settlement of the complaint and any positive actions that resulted from submission of the complaint

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Session C2

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE, AIR QUALITY, AND HEALTH: Is Community Science the Key?

LOCATION: Benjamin Banneker – Room 2212

MODERATOR: Rosemary Ezeugoh, PhD Student, CEEJH Lab, UMD School of Public Health

PANELISTS:
- Omar Muhammad, President, Low Country Alliance for Model Communities
- Ana Rule, Associate Professor, Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health
- Nancy J. Meyer, CEO, Community Forklift
- Sacoby Wilson, CEEJH Director; Board Member, Citizen Science Association

Community science, also known as citizen science, street science, etc. is the practice of public participation and collaboration in scientific research to increase knowledge. Community science is a way to democratize science, build community capacity and “inpower” residents to translate knowledge to action. This is particularly important for communities with environmental justice problems related to air pollution. In this session, panelists will discuss their experiences with community-based air quality monitoring initiatives in Maryland and South Carolina. They will discuss impacts of these efforts, challenges and how attendees can also use community science to fight industrial polluters, enhance local environmental-decision-making and improve air quality.

Session C3

LEAD PREVENTION ADVOCACY: A How-To Workshop

LOCATION: Benjamin Banneker B – Room 2212

WORKSHOP LEAD:
- Michelle Mabson, Chief Advocacy Officer, Black Millennials 4 Flint

Lead is still an important environmental justice and health issue in communities of color and low-wealth communities. Black Millennials 4 Flint will facilitate an interactive, workshop-styled session tailored to support everyday advocates seeking feasible, yet powerful ways to elevate their voice and make an impact on policies regarding lead prevention. Participants will analyze real life examples through case studies and engage in authentic activities applying fundamental strategies to successfully combine community organizing and outreach, coalition building and political advocacy regardless of participants’ professional or educational background. Each attendee will leave this session with a plethora of tools to create a #LeadFreeUSA.
**Session C4**

**HOW TO ADDRESS ENERGY EQUITY ISSUES IN UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES**

**LOCATION:** Margaret Brent B - Room 2112

**MODERATOR:** Jessica Ennis, Legislative Director for Climate & Energy, Earthjustice

**PANELISTS:**
- Tamara Toles O’Laughlin, North American Director, 350.org
- Kristal Hansley, Director of Government & Community Affairs, Community Solar
- Jeremy Richardson, Senior Energy Analyst, Climate and Energy Program, Union of Concerned Scientists

Energy equity, the sharing of burdens and benefits of energy production and consumption, is at the forefront of conversations on climate change and climate justice. While homeowners in America stand to benefit greatly from new energy efficiency technologies (e.g., solar, weatherization, and energy storage), renters and residents in multifamily housing are barred from these money-saving updates. These populations tend to spend a larger share of their monthly income on utilities compared to other populations. Acknowledging the social and racial divide of homeownership in America, this panel seeks to highlight the impacts of energy inequity on communities of color and low-wealth areas. Panelists will also speak on potential solutions posed by community cost-sharing models of electrification and share examples of success stories in addressing the energy equity divide.

**Session C5**

**SHOW ME THE MONEY: Financial Tools for Climate Justice and Equity**

**LOCATION:** Pyon Su - Room 2108

**WORKSHOP LEADS:**
- Cymone Gosnell, JD Candidate at University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law
- Nicholle Vo, JD Candidate at University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law

This session will introduce the new equitable climate adaptation financing toolkit recently launched by the NAACP. The NAACP and students at the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law drafted the toolkit with the goal of providing communities with equitable avenues and models for financing various climate adaptation projects. The objective of this session is to provide a broad overview of the contents of the toolkit and give community stakeholders a way to implement the toolkit to fund climate adaptation projects and increase their resilience for the impending and differential effects of climate change. Panelists will cover an overview of the financing tool, and how these tools can be applied to the three major concerns of climate change, including extreme weather, sea level rise and shifts in agricultural yields with a focus on frontline communities.

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THEORIES AND PROCEDURES IN ADDRESSING DISPROPORTIONATE RISKS THROUGH ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLAINTS: Brandywine, Maryland

LOCATION: Thurgood Marshall – Room 2113

WORKSHOP LEADS:
- Kamita Gray, Founder and Executive Director of the 2Bridge CDX Foundation
- Maria Cecilia Pinto de Moura, Senior Vehicles Engineer, Union of Concerned Scientists

Brandywine, Maryland, an unincorporated community with fewer than 7,000 residents (~72 percent are African-American), hosts three power plants within a 13-mile radius—with two more under construction. This willful, differential siting of multiple industrial hazards in a single community of color has led some to refer to Brandywine as a “sacrifice zone for Washington, DC.” In this session, attendees will learn about air quality issues related to industrial hazards and traffic in the area. They will also learn how Title VI of Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the administrative complaint process can be used to document environmental injustice. Additionally, attendees will learn about a recent groundbreaking settlement to the complaint that has implications for how agencies comply with Title VI in the state of Maryland.

TITLE VI: A Tool for Environmental Justice

MODERATOR: Neil Gormley, Staff Attorney, Earthjustice

LOCATION: Nanticoke – Room 1238

PANELISTS:
- Marianne Engleman-Lado, Yale University School of Public Health, School of Forestry & Environmental Studies
- Vernice Miller-Travis, Senior Advisor for Environmental Justice and Equitable Development, Skeo Solutions, Inc.
- Anna Sewell, Water Project Attorney, Earthjustice-Washington D.C.
- Ajmel Quereshi, Senior Counsel, The NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund, Inc.

A Presidential Memorandum submitted with Executive Order 12898 stated that Title VI of the Civil Rights Act should be used to ensure that federal programs related to the environment or health do not discriminate on the basis of race, color or national origin. This session will explore administrative complaints under Title VI as a tool that communities can use in pursuit of environmental justice. Our expert panelists will discuss the steps in developing and pursuing a Title VI complaint, using real-world complaints addressing discrimination in public transportation, sewage treatment, agricultural pollution and power plant siting as examples. The panelists will share lessons learned, answer questions and discuss current threats and opportunities in this arena.

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CONCURRENT SESSIONS IV, continued
3:30 PM - 5:00 PM | 1st & 2nd Floor Meeting Rooms

Session D2

CAFOs II: Environmental Justice, Administrative Complaints, and Lawsuits – Victories and Lessons Learned in North Carolina

LOCATION: Benjamin Banneker B - Room 2212

MODERATOR: Chris D. Heaney, Associate Professor, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health

PANELISTS:
- Naeema Muhammad, Co-Director, North Carolina EJ Network
- Devon Hall, Director, Rural Empowerment Association for Community Health (REACH)
- Elsie Herring, Community Activist and Member, North Carolina EJ Network

Concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs), including industrial hog farms, have negative impacts on the environment and human health. Research has shown that communities of color, particularly Black communities and low-income neighborhoods, are overburdened by these facilities in the state of North Carolina. For many years, organizations such as the North Carolina Environmental Justice Network, Concerned Citizens of Tillery, and REACH have fought to change the permitting process, waste management systems, and rules and regulations for these operations. Recently, these organizations, their partners, and other stakeholders have won significant victories in their struggle against the hog industry. In this session, panelists will discuss how they have made progress through tort lawsuits, settlement of an administrative complaint, and other actions. They will also detail lessons learned and new challenges.

Session D3

EFFECTIVE MODELS OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT TO ADDRESS ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AND HEALTH ISSUES

LOCATION: Margaret Brent A - Room 2112

MODERATOR: Jan-Michael Archer, PhD Student, UMD School of Public Health

PANELISTS:
- Astrid Caldas, Senior Climate Scientist, Union of Concerned Scientists
- Alexander Wooten, Assistant Professor, Morgan State University School of Community Health and Policy
- Omega Wilson, President, West End Revitalization Association, Mebane, NC

Community engagement is an important way to increase the participation of stakeholders from communities with environmental justice and health issues in the research enterprise. Due to negative experiences with extractive science, residents from these communities may not trust academics. Effective and meaningful community engagement can foster trust and mutual respect between communities and researchers leading to more action. Panelists will discuss their experience performing community engagement on environmental justice issues. This session will provide in-depth knowledge on the challenges of community engagement on environmental justice and health concerns, best practices, success stories and lessons learned.
Session D4

NO POLITICIAN GOES TO POLITICIAN SCHOOL: Strategies for Engaging Local and State Officials to Advance Environmental Justice

LOCATION: Margaret Brent B - Room 2112

MODERATOR: Leslie Fields, Director, Environmental Justice and Community Partnerships Program, Sierra Club

PANELISTS:
- Gustavo Angeles, Environmental Justice Coordinator, Sierra Club-Virginia
- Delegate Stephanie Maddin Smith, representing Baltimore 45th Legislative District, Maryland House of Delegates
- Daniel del Pielago, Organizing Director, Empower DC
- Tamara Toles O’Laughlin, North American Director, 350.org

Successful EJ activists must work on every level. In many cases, the most important stakeholder groups to educate on environmental justice and health issues are officials at the local and state level including politicians and directors of permitting, zoning and health agencies. Sometimes, we forget these individuals have limited expertise on environmental justice and health issues or may not have access to staff or partners with experience working on these topics. This session will divulge strategies from an EJ attorney activist turned MD state assembly person, expert activists and organizers from around the DMV on engaging local and state officials. They will share their experiences moving legislation and developing policies that benefit EJ communities. They will also discuss how community participation and ethics must be centralized to build the EJ movement.

Session D5

NEPA AND COMMUNITY BENEFITS AGREEMENTS: Tools for Advancing Environmental Justice

LOCATION: Pyon Su - Room 2108

MODERATOR: Adrienne Hollis, Lead Climate Justice Analyst, Union of Concerned Scientists

PANELISTS:
- Omar Muhammad, President, Low Country Alliance for Model Communities
- Suzi Ruhl, EPA and the Federal Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice
- Raul Garcia, Senior Legislative Counsel, Policy & Legislation Department, Earthjustice

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) is our basic national charter for protection of the environment. It establishes policy, sets goals (section 101) and provides means (section 102) for carrying out the policy. Section 102(2) contains “action-forcing” provisions to make sure that federal agencies act according to the letter and spirit of the Act. A Community Benefits Agreement (CBA) is a project-specific agreement between a developer and a broad community coalition that details the project’s contributions to the community and ensures community support for the project. In this session, we will describe the use and application of both NEPA and CBAs to mitigate and address environmental and health issues in communities with environmental justice problems.

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CONCURRENT SESSIONS IV, continued
3:30 PM - 5:00 PM | 1ST & 2ND FLOOR MEETING ROOMS

Session D6

NAMATI’S MODEL OF ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE LEGAL ADVOCACY AT THE COMMUNITY LEVEL

LOCATION: Thurgood Marshall - Room 2113

MODERATOR: Alayna Chuney, Environmental Justice Consultant, Namati

PANELISTS:

- Rhonda Hamilton, ANC 6D Commissioner and Member, Near Buzzard Point Resilient Action Committee
- Erin Kitchell, Director of Global Learning and Practice, Namati
- Chris Melendez, Vice Chair, Port Towns Community Development Corporation

In the United States and elsewhere, environmental movements have often focused on top-down regulation and litigation. Namati is developing a “legal empowerment” approach to environmental justice in the United States: An approach that equips communities affected by environmental harm to advocate for themselves. Namati focuses on “community paralegals,” sometimes called barefoot lawyers, who demystify the law and help people exercise their rights. Individuals attending this session will learn about legal empowerment, learn how they can use it in their communities and speak to US organizers who are using the approach to advance environmental justice. US organizers will discuss challenges, successes, and the potential of legal advocacy at the community level.

EVENING RECEPTION

5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

LOCATION: Grand Ballroom - Room 1206

- Enjoy a “down home” buffet with baby spinach salad, Maryland-fried or pan-roasted chicken, Vermont Cheddar macaroni and cheese, mashed potatoes, seasoned fresh whole green beans, mini cornbread muffins with sweet butter, apple tart or chocolate carrot cake and cash bar.

EIGHTH ANNUAL CEEJH KEYNOTE - MUSTAFA SANTIAGO ALI

6:00 PM - 7:00 PM

LOCATION: Grand Ballroom - Room 1206

- A renowned thought leader, international speaker, policy maker, community liaison, trainer and facilitator, Mustafa Santiago Ali wears many hats. He is the Vice President of Environmental Justice, Climate & Community Revitalization for the National Wildlife Federation (NWF) and also the Founder of Revitalization Strategies, a business focused on moving our most vulnerable communities from “surviving to thriving.”
ORGANIZED AND HOSTED BY:

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