

Environmental Justice and Philanthropy:

PRIORITY ISSUES AREAS AND ALIGNMENT

In 2020, the BEA collaborated with the Tishman Environment and Design Center at the New School to conduct a landscape assessment on the misalignment between the EJ and philanthropic sectors and to find areas of opportunity to build greater alignment over time. One of the underlying assumptions implicit in the question of misalignment between the funding strategies of philanthropy and the work of EJ organizations is the idea that environmental funders prioritize work similar to the work EJ organizations are carrying out on the ground. As part of this study, researchers conducted extensive in-depth interviews with leaders from both fields. In order to test the assumption about issue priority, researchers asked foundation and EJ staff to name and discuss their priority issue areas.*

* Foundation interviewees (12) were asked to describe the priority issue areas in their respective environmental portfolios. Foundation websites (32) were also explored to triangulate the priority issues identified in interviews and the articulation of priority grant areas. Foundation websites and interviews with foundation and EJ staff were examined.

PRIORITY ISSUE AREAS FOR EJ ORGANIZATIONS AND FUNDERS:

Organizations	Funders
Civic Participation and Democracy	Clean Energy and Climate Change
Movement Building/ Community Organizing/ Community Engagement/ Community Knowledge	Economic/Racial Equity
Youth Leadership/Mentoring	Ecosystem Preservation/Biodiversity/ Natural Resources
Economic and Racial Justice, Alleviating Poverty	Research Policy and Advocacy
Water Initiatives	Green Infrastructure, Sustainable Design
Renewable Energy	Capacity-Building for Grassroots Orgs.
Workforce Development	Education
Direct Action	Resiliency
Indigenous Rights	Movement Building/Community Organizing/Community Engagement
Food Justice	Clean Transportation and Air Quality
Coastal Resiliency and Climate Adap- tation	Coastal Restoration and Ocean Preservation
Community Asset Development	Clean and Affordable Drinking Water
Air Quality	Civic Participation and Democracy
Climate Change	Environmental/Climate Justice
	Workforce and Professional Development
	Youth Mentorship
	Indigenous Rights
	Food Justice
	Land Use
	Public Health

The order in which the priorities are listed reflects the frequency that the issue was mentioned. The higher the priority falls, the more frequently it was mentioned. The colors correspond to aligned priorities across the two sectors. Priorities that are highlighted in the same color were explicitly mentioned by both the EJ organizations and funders at least once and show sectoral alignment. In some cases multiple priority issues appear as the same color because researchers felt there was overlap in the meaning or purpose of the issue area.